

Yesterday, President Obama signed S. 1508, the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Act. The House Oversight Committee [forwarded the bill in April](#) and the bill was [passed by the House of Representatives](#) on July 14th.

[From Ed O'Keefe at the Washington Post](#) :

With financial regulatory reform in the bag, President Obama turned to government spending reform on Thursday, signing a bill that requires federal agencies and departments to crack down on improper payments.

The government misspent almost \$110 billion in fiscal year 2009 by sending benefits checks sent to dead people, doling out fraudulent Medicare and Medicaid payments and overpaying government contractors...

"It means cutting down on waste, fraud and abuse and ensuring that our government serves as a responsible steward of the tax dollars of the American people," Obama said before signing the bill.

Today's bill signing, combined with Wednesday's signing of a massive financial regulatory reform measure, allows Obama to demonstrate he's putting the government's fiscal house in order while forcing Wall Street to do the same.

The bill, sponsored by Sen. Tom Carper (D-Del.) and Rep. Patrick Murphy (D-Pa.) moved relatively swiftly through Congress and passed unanimously in both chambers.